



San Luis Obispo County Fire Safe Council

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Board of Directors Meeting Minutes Wednesday, July 19, 2023 0900-1130 hours

Meeting held at Templeton Community Center with Zoom

BOARD OF DIRECTORS IN ATTENDANCE:

Debbie Arnold – County BOS	Chad Pankey – Citizen at Large
Ed Waage – Citizen at Large	Russ Johnson – Lake Naci Focus Group
Scott Hallett – Paso Robles Focus Group	Bob Neumann – Second Supervisorial District
Spencer Gordon - RCD	David Pierson – Cambria Focus Group
Dan Dulitz – Fifth Supervisorial District	Dena Paschke – Fire Prev Officers Assoc
Stacy Korsgaden – Insurance Industry	Turko Semmes – Building Industry
Tom Peterson – County Fire Chiefs	Martin Scott – Ranchita Estates Focus Group
James Blattler – City of SLO Focus Group	Matt Mohle – SLO County Parks
Tom Wright – Los Osos Focus Group	Royce Larsen – UC Cooperative Extension
David Van Son – Atascadero FD Focus Group	Chris Slate – Third Supervisorial District
Scott Johnson – Citizen at Large	Karl Tupper – Air Pollution Control Dist
Dan Ponti – Farm Bureau	John Owens – San Luis Obispo County Fire

BOARD OF DIRECTORS ABSENT:

Chris Dicus – Cal Poly State University	Skip Dyke – Range Improvement Assoc
Jeff Jones – Citizen at Large	Steve Negro – First Supervisorial District
Ruben Brand – PG&E	Bill Cochrane – Cattlemen’s Association

FOCUS GROUP and EX-OFFICIO REPRESENTATIVES IN ATTENDANCE:

Baxter Boyington – Toro Creek Focus Group	Ed Lysek – Santa Rita Creek Focus Group
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STAFF PRESENT:

Dan Turner – Executive Director	Loree McRoberts – CAL FIRE
Dane Mumford – FSC Project Coordinator	Greg Alex – SLO FSC Webmaster
Mauricia Anderson – FSC Project Coordinator	

GUESTS:

Barry Fisher – Oakridge POA	Keith Aggson – SLO County OES
Brendan Cosgrove – Building Industry	Fred Pena – US Forest Service
Don DeYoung – Skylark HOA	Susie Johnson – Lake Nacimiento
Jose Torres – Los Osos Focus Group	Eli Grinberg – USLTRCD
Zach Cipriano – CAL FIRE	Peter Stephenson – US Forest Service
Luke Bourgault – CAL FIRE	Britney Munoz – CA FSC
Rob Baker – Templeton Fire	Cameron Radlin – Templeton Fire
Liz Knight – Paso Robles Resident	John Knight – Paso Robles Resident
John Diehl – Templeton Fire	Jim Sasules – 1st Supervisorial Rep Nominee
Rachel Rahtz – USLTRCD	

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CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order by President Debbie Arnold at 9:00 a.m. followed by introduction of directors, staff, focus groups and guests.

CONSENT AGENDA

- May 2023 meeting minutes of the Board of Directors were presented for approval.
- June 2023 Executive Committee minutes were presented for review.
- SLO FSC Operations Account Summary was presented.
- 2023 Contract Summary was presented.
- Abbreviated Bank Statement ending June 30, 2023 was presented.
- 2023 Active Grant Financial Summary was presented.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve the minutes from the May 2023 Board of Directors meeting and accept all other consent agenda items as presented: Waage Second: Neumann

PRESENTATIONS

- Cal Poly Wildland Urban Interface Fire Institute has a new director, Frank Frievalt
 - The new education and research institute is focused on reducing consequences from WUI fires.
- California Fire Safe Council Regional Coordinator, Britney Munoz attended our meeting. She updated us on new programs the State Fire Safe Council is promoting.

MID-STATE FAIR UPDATE

- Paintings of the Fisci Fox characters were placed in the Fire Education Center
- Home hardening signage was installed
- Swag items were purchased for distribution to visitors
- Thank you to the volunteers for getting everything ready at the Center for the Fair

ROUNDTABLE

- Stacy Korsgaden provided an update on the insurance industry.
 - Things are getting worse; more companies are not offering policies in California and renewals are not being extended. The inability to obtain insurance is spreading to rental properties and automobile policies.
- Focus Groups and Organizations provided updates as follows:
 - United States Forest Service
 - 100% staffed
 - Four wildland engines
 - Hot Shot crew
 - 350 acres of hazardous fuel reduction completed
 - Increasing fire restrictions
 - SLO County OES
 - Zonehaven goes live August 1, 2023
 - County Parks and Recreation
 - Lopez Lake and Santa Margarita Lake have finished dry brush clean up

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- No fires allowed
- CAL FIRE/SLO County Fire
 - Fifteen type 3 engines in County
 - All 12 stations are open with full staffing
 - Ten active hazardous fuel reduction projects
 - Huasna and Parkhill projects are seeing progress on truck trails
 - New headquarters slated to be built in 2026
- Paso Fire
 - An administrative captain has been added in Community Risk Reduction to increase public education
- Lake Nacimiento Focus Group
 - Fourteen miles of hazardous fuel reduction along the roadways has been completed
 - One access road has been rehabilitated and opened
- Huasna Focus Group
 - Interested in placing “High Fire Danger” signs
- Santa Rita Creek Focus Group
 - Expressed their thanks for the response to a previous fire and all the work that has been completed to mitigate danger
 - Fuel reduction efforts underway with chipping scheduled in August
 - Working to improve access and inform residents about shelter in place
- Atascadero Fire
 - Consultation program continuing
 - Involved with Firefighter exchange program – only 5 departments nationwide
- Toro Creek
 - Roundtable discussions
- Cambria Focus Group
 - Upcoming chipping event
 - Pinedorado parade with an old fire engine
 - Grant applied for Zonehaven
- San Luis Obispo City Fire
 - Held Wildfire Readiness Night at local library
 - Grant for hazardous fuel reduction along San Luis Drive
 - Working on getting Ready, Set, Go translated to Spanish
- Ranchita Estates
 - CCC completed 6 days of chipping, more chipping scheduled for August 4
 - \$5,000 allocated from HOA to improve fuel breaks
- Los Osos Focus Group
 - Cabrillo Estates had 50 residents participate in chipping

SCHOLARSHIP / LOCAL GRANT PROGRAM UPDATE

- Cal Poly LEAD Scholars program has received a recommendation by the Executive Committee for a \$5,000 award.
 - Recommendation was made to approve Executive Committee recommendation for a \$5,000 grant to LEAD Scholars Program at Cal Poly Natural Resources and Environmental Sciences Department.

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It was moved, seconded, and approved to approve a grant award of \$5,000 to the Cal Poly LEAD Program as recommended by the Executive Committee: Semmes Second: Mohle

- WUI Design for Architects
 - Approval pending: Executive Committee recommends further clarification on how course will be distributed locally, at Cal Pol, and regionally. Professor Margot McDonald will provide clarification prior to approval vote.

FOCUS GROUP GUIDEBOOK PROJECT UPDATE

- Baxter Boyington has finished work on the project. Editing is in progress and the final project is coming soon.

FIRE SAFE COUNCIL BUSINESS ITEMS

- CA Assembly Bill 338 – Prevailing Wage Legislation
 - 2022 AB 1717 has been reincarnated as AB338. SLO FSC wrote a letter of opposition in 2022.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to submit a letter of opposition to the prevailing wage legislation being considered: Waage Second: Semmes

- Board of Directors update:
 - Tom Wright has announced his resignation and his support of Jose Torres to replace him as the Los Osos Focus Group representative.
 - Turko Semmes is being shadowed by Brandon Cosgrove. Mr. Cosgrove will be nominated to represent the Building Industry when Mr. Semmes' seat comes up for vote in January 2024.
 - Steve Negro has announced his resignation and his support of Jim Salsules to replace him as the First Supervisorial District Representative. Mr. Salsules will obtain a letter from his Board of Supervisor representative.
 - David Pierson is interested in serving on the Executive Committee and will shadow Royce Larsen with the intent of replacing him once he retires.

It was moved, seconded, and approved to accept Tom Wright's resignation and appoint Jose Torres as his successor representing the Los Osos Focus Group: Neumann Second: Pierson

GRANT APPLICATION ACTIVITY UPDATE

- PG&E 2023 Hazardous Fuel Reduction
 - Tassajera Creek Roadside – award granted, and work completed
 - 5.5 miles of roadside clearance completed in 6 days
- Covell Project tour on May 17 had 35 people in attendance. The Nature Conservancy toured the project on June 13 and were happy with the work that was done.
- Hearst Ranch CAL VTP / PWP
 - Unanimously approved by CA Coastal Commission
 - Excellent work by Spencer Gordon (US-LT RCD), Auten Resource Consulting, CAL FIRE, and SLO Fire Safe Council.
 - Additional projects in Cambria on Rancho Marino (UCSB) and CA Fish & Wildlife Preserve also received unanimous approval.

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- CA State Coastal Conservancy – Wildfire Resilience Grant
 - Decision pending – scope of work and budget being negotiated
 - Project goal: Develop and define FIRESHED boundaries, develop template of considerations in FIRESHEDs, publish written report, develop GIS based dashboard for project planning, develop public facing website page of project treatments.
 - All the planning data we have with SLO County OES, RCD, US Forest Service and CAL FIRE would be combined into one resource.
- Rincon Consulting – FIRESHED Assessment Project
 - Executive Committee approved entering into agreement with Rincon Consulting to assist reaching the project goal as defined in the CA State Coastal Conservancy Wildfire Resilience grant.
- Evacuation Planning Grant – Zonehaven and Ladriss
 - Acquiring Ladriss Technology services, evacuation planning/modeling program.
 - Partnership with SLO County OES (sharing 4 seat licenses)
 - Unlimited evacuation modeling
 - Pending now: Lake Nacimiento, Suey Creek, Pismo Heights, Huasna, San Luis Bay Estates/Avila Beach
- 2022-23 CA Climate Investment Wildfire Prevention Grants
 - Decision pending, should know if granted award by July 31, 2023
 - If awarded, funding available Fall 2023 through March 2029
 - Risk Assessment Planning project (tied to FIRESHEDS)
 - Hazardous fuel treatment projects

GOOD OF THE ORDER / FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

- Temporary refuge area signs have been placed in See Canyon.

NEXT MEETINGS

Executive Committee Meeting

- Wednesday, August 16, 9:00 to 11:30 a.m.
- Location: County Government Center

Board of Directors Meeting

- Wednesday, September 20, 2023
- Location: TBD

ADJOURNMENT

President Debbie Arnold adjourned the meeting at 12:00 p.m. She invited everyone to stay and enjoy lunch in honor of our guest Britany Munoz from the California Fire Safe Council.

Respectfully submitted,

Loree McRoberts

Recording Secretary